

occasions. Once I came suddenly upon two of them together, standing side by side, their bills pointing in one way. They crouched, or squatted, when they saw me, and presently took to wing, but made no sound of any kind or indulged in the customary zigzag flight. They evidently felt settled or had not approached the wild and erratic state.

But shortly after this my observations had ceased, owing to the changed conditions brought about by "the man with the gun"; and on September 10th the last snipe was seen.

In summarizing the foregoing, we observe: First—That the Wilson Snipe occasionally resorts to open mud-flats, unmindful of the cover of darkness, and that its stay is governed by the supply of food; second, it feeds at all hours of the day; third, the "suction" theory of procuring its food, however erroneous it may now seem, really has reasons for some foundation.

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## NOTES ON THE WINTER BIRDS OF ARKANSAS.

BY N. HOLLISTER.

THE following fragmentary notes on the winter birds of Arkansas are taken from my notes and collections made on three hunting trips in Lonoke, Prairie, and Arkansas counties during the greater part of January and November, 1899, and November, 1900. The part of the state comprising these three counties includes Grand and White River Prairies, large tracts of well-grassed open country, dotted here and there with patches of timber, principally oak, gum, hickory, etc., of varying acreage, from the scattering persimmon clumps and "slashings" to the larger "islands" of wood and vast forests and cypress swamps bordering the prairies and extending for many miles; still almost unbroken and affording shelter and range for deer, bear, turkeys, wild cats, and an occasional panther.

Except for Grand Prairie itself, the country included is well watered, being crossed or bordered by the Arkansas and White rivers, Big and Little LaGrue and Bayou Meto, all of which are fed by many a creek and bayou of varying size. During our first visit in January, 1899, we were blest with rather an oversupply of dampness. The rainfall throughout our stay was something terrific, and after a week's soaking in camp on the White River, near Crockett's Bluff, during which time the rain did not cease for a single hour, we were driven back to town and had to content ourselves with short drives from Stuttgart, where we had made our headquarters. During the two latter trips, however, the weather was simply perfect and we enjoyed many little excursions from town in all directions, of from one to four or five days' duration.

Most of the following ornithological observations were made in Arkansas county, but several times we made trips extending north into Prairie and Lonoke counties. Nothing one could possibly say would begin to overrate the kindness, hospitality, and attention the residents of this district extended to us—perfect strangers as we were. Southern hospitality is proverbial, and no visitor to the prairie regions of Arkansas will find reason to have his faith in it lessened in the least.

Although the number of species found here at this season of the year is, of course, not large, it must not be imagined that in the list as here given any attempt at completeness is considered.

**Anas boschas.** MALLARD. Very abundant. The mallard is *the* wild duck of this country and, if the rainfall is sufficient, is everywhere. They fly in and out among the trees, alighting in the timber wherever the water remains on the ground, and feed on the "mast" (soaked acorns, etc.), which supplies them with an abundance of food. In January they were all very thin—so much so that they were really unfit to shoot. At that time I noted a bunch, on the depot platform, of fourteen dozen birds, the result of one

and one-half days' shooting by two market hunters, and not one bird in the bunch but would be called a "crip" by a Northern or Western sportsman, so emaciated was their condition. In November, however, they are in most excellent shape and equal in weight to a Minnesota or Wisconsin "corn-fed" mallard.

**Mareca americana.** BALD-PATE. A very few seen in the bags of the market shooters.

**Nettion carolinensis.** GREEN-WINGED TEAL. A few seen in January in the bags of market hunters.

**Dafila acuta.** PINTAIL. A few seen in January.

**Aix sponsa.** WOOD DUCK. Next to the mallard the commonest duck observed on the Bayou Meto in November, 1899. Found anywhere in oak timber, miles from any stream. It seems odd to flush *ducks* from the tree-tops when quail shooting.

**Branta canadensis.** CANADA GOOSE. All the geese seen wild were evidently typical *canadensis*—one killed in January certainly was.

**Branta canadensis hutchinsii.** HUTCHIN'S GOOSE. Two captive geese in the possession of parties in Stuttgart, winged the year before our first visit, are among the smallest geese I have ever seen, and are typical *hutchinsii*.

**Rallus virginianus.** VIRGINIA RAIL. One seen in January, 1899.

**Philohela minor.** WOODCOCK. Common in both January and November. Often found in the perfectly dry woods miles from any water, while quail hunting.

**Gallinago delicata.** WILSON'S SNIPE. None seen in November, but common in January. The abundance of the Jack Snipe depends entirely on the rainfall.

**Aegialitis vocifera.** KILLDEER. Common. January and November.

**Colinus virginianus.** BOB-WHITE. Nowhere that I have ever hunted are the quail so abundant as they are in these counties. They are everywhere. It is a typical, a perfect quail country, and with reasonable game laws they should

continue to thrive forever. The birds are small and dark as compared with northern quail. Some specimens really remind one very much of the Florida birds. Their habit of treeing very easily and their short lowering flight at times bring to mind the little "Bob" of the Florida woods. They are strongly inclined to melanism. One specimen has a perfect jet-black throat-patch. Careful measurement of length in a large series gives the following results:—

	♂	♀
Largest . . . . .	9.90	10.20
Smallest . . . . .	9.00	9.00
Average . . . . .	9.66	9.72

Average length of wing is ♂ 4.39, ♀ 4.38. The bills of a large per cent. are entirely jet black.

**Tympanuchus americanus.** PRAIRIE HEN. The prairie chickens were very common on all the open prairies during our first two visits, but seem to have sadly suffered from too persistent hunting. The sportsmen from Memphis, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Hot Springs, and even St. Louis, flock here on the opening day (Sept. 1), and the range being comparatively small, this rather isolated colony of America's finest game-bird seems almost threatened with extinction in the near future. The opening date for shooting should evidently be much later in the season to afford much protection for the game.

**Meleagris gallopavo fera.** WILD TURKEY. Still fairly common. A good many were killed in November, 1900.

**Zenaidura macroura.** MOURNING DOVE. Common all winter.

**Cathartes aura.** TURKEY VULTURE. Abundant.

**Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK. Common.

**Buteo borealis.** RED-TAILED HAWK. Some of the Red-tails were evidently typical *borealis*. Common.

**Buteo borealis harlani.** HARLAN'S HAWK. I take it that this race is fairly common here; some specimens shot, at least, were typical.

*Buteo lineatus*. RED - SHOULDERED HAWK. Tolerably common. This is preëminently a "hawk country."

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE. A few.

*Falco sparverius*. AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK. Very common.

*Asio wilsonianus*. AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL. Common.

*Asio accipitrinus*. SHORT-EARED OWL. A few.

*Syrnium nebulosum*. BARRED OWL. Common.

*Megascops asio*. SCREECH OWL. Tolerably common.

*Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER. Common.

*Dryobates pubescens medianus*. DOWNY WOODPECKER. Common. Although no specimens were made up, it is probable they are of this race.

*Ceophloeus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER. Common in the heavily wooded part of Arkansas county bordering the lower Bayou Meto. I have had several in one tree directly over me. Only a few in other parts of the county, although I took one specimen almost in the very city limits of Stuttgart. They are all of the southern race.

*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Very common. In November the young are one of the commonest of birds.

*Melanerpes carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. Common.

*Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER. Abundant.

*Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY. Abundant.

*Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW. Not common—only a few seen.

*Agelaius phoeniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Abundant.

*Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK. Abundant.

*Scolecophagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Common.

*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. A few seen along the prairie roadsides in company with the last.

*Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. A few observed in January.

*Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW. Very abundant in November.

*Junco hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. Abundant.

*Melospiza melodia*. SONG SPARROW. Abundant.

*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE. Common.

*Cardinalis cardinalis*. CARDINAL. Common.

*Lanius ludovicianus*. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. Common.

*Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. Very abundant all of November.

*Mimus polyglottos*. MOCKINGBIRD. Common, more so in November than in January.

*Parus bicolor*. TUFTED TITMOUSE. Common in heavy woods about Bayou Meto.

*Hylocichla aonalaschkae pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH. A few in November and also in January.

*Merula migratoria*. AMERICAN ROBIN. Common in roving flocks. Sometimes abundant and again not to be found at all.

*Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD. A few.

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## A SONG SPARROW'S NEST.

BY BENJ. T. GAULT.

THE following recorded happenings to a Song Sparrow's nest found on our place, during the season of 1900, may be of interest and perhaps worthy of repetition here.

June 17.—I discovered a Song Sparrow's nest in one of our gooseberry bushes; it contained four young sparrows and one young Cowbird—all but a few days old.

June 19.—Examined the nest again and found one of the young sparrows hanging to the bush, just below the nest, dead. It had been crowded out.